

Application No.: 10/563,700

Case No.: 58866US004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Claims 6 to 9 are pending. Claims 6 and 7 are currently amended. Claims 1 to 5 were previously canceled. No claims are withdrawn from consideration, canceled, or added in this paper.

§112 Rejection

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the silicone particles is present in an amount of 3-10 wt%. Support for this amendment can be found, e.g., in applicant's written description on page 2, line 19 stating "mat material (composed of silicone particles) 3" and on page 3, line 27.

In summary, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, has been overcome, and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

§102 Rejections

Claims 6 to 9 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,888,625 (referred to herein as "Kobayashi et al."). Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Kobayashi et al. discloses a reusable recording paper obtained by coating or impregnating a substrate comprised primarily of a pulp fiber with a liquid composition comprising a curable silicone compound and a finely divided material. The silicone compound is capable of directly combining with a surface OH group, i.e., OH group of cellulose as a main constituent of pulp fiber or OH group of the finely divided material, by a chemical reaction. Thereafter the liquid composition is dried. See col. 4, lines 6-14.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to state that its substrate is plastic. Support for this amendment can be found, e.g., on page 2, line 32 of applicant's written description.

Because Kobayashi et al.'s invention is limited to substrate comprising pulp fiber, it cannot anticipate Applicant's invention. Furthermore, Applicant's claim 6 recites that the silicone particles

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are at least partially exposed at the surface of the information recording layer 2. Kobayashi et al's invention, on the other hand, does not mention that its silicone compound is exposed but instead the silicone compound combines and reacts with the OH group of the cellulose in the pulp fiber substrate. Thus, for at least these reasons, applicant's invention is novel over Kobayashi et al.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 USC §102(b) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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